MIG Crashes

3674. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of crashes of IAF MIG fighter aircrafts continue to be on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of IAF MIG fighter aircrafts crashed since the beginning of 2001 stating the comparative incidents during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of pilots and civilians, if any, killed in these accidents during last three years;

(d) the estimated loss suffered by Government as a consequence thereof;

(e) the details of the inquiry reports in this regard;

(f) the number of MIG aircrafts requiring replacements; and

(g) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Between the 1st January, 2001 and 15th April, 2001, 6 IAF MIG series fighter aircrafts crashed. During the last three years, the number of accidents on MIG aircrafts have remained the same.

Year-wise details of MIG aircraft accidents, aircraft lost, number of pilots and civilians killed and financial loss in these accidents are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Courts of Inquiry, set up to investigate these accidents, found the causes of accidents to be human error, technical defects and bird hits.

(f) The MIG-21 with regular maintenance checks and servicing procedures remains fully airworthy. The MIG-21 aircraft will stay in the IAF, albeit, in smaller numbers for some years.

(g) MIG-21 Bis aricraft are being upgraded with better avionics and weapon systems. Strict quality control is being exercised in maintenance of MIG-21 aircraft. The IAF is, taking measures to enhance quality of training to improve skill levels, ability to excercise sound judgement and situational awareness. Further, the recommendations of the Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) are being implemented and the progress is reviewed, regularly.

Statement

Year-wise details of MIG aircrash

Year	MIG Series Category-I accidents	MIG aircraft Lost	Number of pilots killed in MIG accidents	Number of civilians killed	Financial Loss (Rs.)
1998-1999	16*	18	06	06	156.06 Cr.
1999-2000	17*	18	09	02	154.79 Cr.
2000-2001	17*	18	10	Nil	47.60 Cr. (12 aircrafts C.O.I. finalized till date

*Each star indicates mid-air collision accident in which 2 aircrafts were involved.

Purchase of Hawks Aircraft

3675. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government propose to enter into a deal to purchase BAC systems U.K. produced Hawks 100 for IAF Advance Jet Trainer which is 1970s vintage technology when modern variants are available in Europe and USA and that the deal is estimated to cost over a crore of rupee more; and

(b) if so, the reasons for opting for the Hawks 100 aircrafts having vintage technology ignoring the availability of modern variants?